

Propaganda For High Priced Gas Won't Put Oil Men Back To Work
An Editorial

Why all this propaganda urging motorists to buy only those brands of gasoline sold at top prices established by the major companies? And just how much real merit is there in the argument that by paying more for gasoline, motorists will put men back to work in the oil industry? Whatever effect this propaganda may have upon other communities, these arguments seem little short of ridiculous to citizens of Torrance, whose industrial life is so closely allied with the petroleum business and consequently its people are in a position to know the facts.

Let us take a specific case. One of the major oil companies recently constructed a new refinery unit on its property in Torrance utilizing the newly patented hydrogenation process which manufactures more than a gallon of gasoline from a gallon of crude oil. We are told by oil men that 18 workmen in this new refinery unit can make as much gasoline in a day as over 200 workmen did in the same time at this company's old refinery. Here is the reason for unemployment and one of the reasons for over-production; i. e., 18 men do the work of 200 and deliver more gasoline from less crude. Under these conditions, why shouldn't gasoline sell for less?

If Mr. Bullock, who is a member of the so-called Business Men's Committee, could sell as much merchandise in his department stores with a force of 18 employees as he does with 200, would he not be willing to reduce his selling prices? And furthermore, if the goods cost him less, would he not likewise sell them for less? Most certainly he would, for the reason that he would have to do so to meet competition!

Unemployment in the petroleum industry is not due to price wars, but to the importation of foreign oil and refined gasoline by the same companies that are attempting to keep prices up when every other commodity is cheaper. Production in the United States declined 45,000,000 barrels last year, while consumption increased. During the same year, imports of petroleum products increased 97,000,000 barrels. Producers have cooperated by curtailing production and their good efforts have been lost through increased importations. Our guess is that importations are not profitable when gasoline sells at price-war figures, and if this country wants to put its oil men back to work, it had better encourage lowered prices for gasoline.

President Hoover and a Congress that is sympathetic with the big oil companies and their foreign holdings have refused to place a tariff or embargo to protect domestic oil interests, so perhaps the only way to put oil men back to work in this country is to lower the price of crude and gasoline to a figure that makes importations unprofitable.

The argument that a protective tariff or embargo would meet retaliation in foreign countries by a high duty being placed upon our exports and thus do us more harm than good has little merit, for the reason that the United States has already lost its foreign oil trade. We quote from an article in last Sunday's Los Angeles Times:

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Only Newspaper Published In Torrance

Torrance Herald

and LOMITA NEWS

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NEXT WATER FIGHT TO BE 'GRUDGE' MIX

Defeated Company Serves Victors Chicken At Bartlett's House

When 19 firemen have consumed all of the chicken and fixins that will be served at 6:30 o'clock this evening in A. G. Bartlett's backyard picnic grounds, they will draw up a code of rules for the next water fight. This coming battle with fire hoses will be a sequel to the contest waged last Saturday afternoon between companies 1 and 2 in El Prado Park.

Although Company No. 1, commanded by Captain George Key, routed Company No. 2, led by Captain Bartlett, after eight minutes of nozzle-to-nozzle combat, Bartlett claims that the strategy employed by Key's squad was not according to Hoyle.

Several hundred spectators watched the eight-man teams link up their hose lines, signal for water and then, with streams pouring at 65 pounds pressure, drive each other about the lower end of the park. Company No. 2 led from the start. They hooked up first and were first to get water.

Company No. 1 was unable to do much damage to their opponents, most of the time their hose being directed into the air or away from Company No. 1.

Only One Casualty
Captain Key acted as buffer-man for his company, taking the No. 2 stream in his back, thus allowing his squad to advance and pour water on their opponents without damage. Captain Bartlett was the only serious casualty. Early in the fight he received a stream of water directly in his right eye. His optic is still badly blood-shot and swollen.

If the two companies can agree on certain rules regarding the distance between nozzles, legitimate buffer strategy and other regulations, a return engagement may be scheduled some time in September. Those who will be present at the dinner to be served by the losers tonight are: Fire Chief Ben Hannebrink, Engineers J. J. Benner and J. E. McMaster, Captain Key and his winning company, composed of Dewey Fix, W. C. Silence, Ellis Harder, Lewis Edwards, J. A. Benner, Ed Lind and W. J. Neff, and the losing company, Captain Bartlett, J. R. Winters, S. C. Smith, A. W. Sessions, W. T. Jones, C. C. Benner, William Everett and G. D. Mosher.

LOMITA STOREKEEPER IS VICTIM OF BURGLARS

After robbing James J. Burke, Lomita storekeeper at Narbonne and Acacia avenues, of \$10 in cash and checks totaling \$20, two armed bandits tore out the store's telephone and departed late Friday night. Burke furnished deputy sheriffs with a good description of the hold-up men.

Motorists Must Report Crashes In Which Any Person Is Injured

A fine, or jail sentence, or both fine and jail sentence, await any motorist in California who, after having an accident in which a person is killed or hurt, fails to properly report it to the authorities. This, in effect, is what the newly amended section 142 of the California Vehicle Act states. This section becomes a law, going into effect August 14.

The law says that the driver of a motor vehicle involved in an accident is the proper person to report it, but if the driver is injured or killed, some other passenger in the car shall make the report. The failure of either the driver or some other occupant to report may bring the penalty above stated on either or both persons.

In Case of Injury Only
Motor vehicle accidents in which no persons are injured or killed do not have to be reported. In other words, the law does not require that reports be made of motor vehicle accidents which involve property damage only. However, a report must be made in case of a personal injury, no matter how slight the extent of the injury.

In collisions between two or more motor vehicles, the driver, or if the driver is unable, a passenger in each of the several cars must make a report. It is not sufficient for the occupants in merely one of the cars to report for all vehicles involved.

Motor vehicle accident reports may be made by any police official having jurisdiction at the place where the accident occurred, or may be sent to the California Highway Patrol at Sacramento. Such reports have to be made within 24 hours after the accident, and if not so made, the person or

She Wanted Relief—And She Got It!

"Nertz!" exclaimed a Torrance citizen, "Just plumb nertz!" He had seen a man run into a local drug store last Sunday afternoon, buy a pint of cream and, on getting back into a car, hand the bottle to a young lady sitting in the back seat.

That was alright—but the local man's speculations were prompted by the sight of the girl opening the bottle and upending it over her head, allowing the cream to run down her face, shoulders and the rest of her body.

The young woman had been sunburned—very, very badly—but she smiled with relief as she dabbed the cream on the inflamed skin. She was clad in a bathing suit.

NAME THREE FOR LEGION COMMANDER

Three members of the Bert S. Crossland American Legion Post were nominated Tuesday night for the office of post commander. Earl L. Conner is retiring leader of the veterans' organization. The nominees were Louis Deiminger, Tom Bowker and Jack Gill. The election will be held August 11 and the new officers installed August 25.

Local delegates to the State American Legion convention at Long Beach the last of next month were elected this week. They are Al Greiner, Earl Conner, N. F. Jamieson, Tom Bowker, Jack Gill, Ray Cook and Harry Cull. Alternates chosen are George Worcester, H. P. Tibbitts, Grant Barkdull, W. H. Steger, Frank Schumacher, Charles Smith and E. A. Boyle.

Other nominations made at this week's Legion meeting were: Executive committee: Charles Myers, N. F. Jamieson, Earl Conner, Grant Barkdull, William Sager and Alec (Continued on Page 2-A)

Lomita Annexation Plan Is Abandoned

LOMITA—Stating that they have no intention of forcing annexation on Torrance, and that they will not jeopardize the efforts of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to secure the Cabrillo-Eshelman improvement, members of the Lomita annexation committee, consisting of John Holm, D. F. Nault, P. H. Rowland, G. E. Bryant and Birda Paddock, announced today that they would not present a petition to the Torrance council.

Members of the Lomita committee at a recent meeting decided to accede to the request of directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to defer action until every effort had been made to secure the Cabrillo-Eshelman paving.

CITY VALUED AT \$26,568,860

Unofficial Tabulation of Assessed Valuation of County Cities Shows Torrance in Eleventh Place

A report published in Los Angeles newspapers this week that Torrance's assessed valuation for 1930-31 is \$26,568,860, thus placing this municipality eleventh in the list of cities in the county, was cleared up yesterday by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett. The city clerk interviewed County Assessor Hopkins and learned that the official assessment, list will not be issued until after August 20. Between now and that date the County Board of Supervisors is conducting hearings on the proposed county budget and is expected to announce the authoritative assessment list at the conclusion of the budget session.

Bartlett learned that the total assessed valuation of Torrance, not including the recently annexed South Torrance territory, is unofficially placed at \$23,911,055. The new addition to the city had not been included in the assessment total for Torrance yesterday and County Assessor Hopkins was to give the city clerk a report some time today on how much that additional area will raise the city's valuation. It is expected that the total valuation, when received here, will approximate the \$25,225,000 mark. Last year Torrance's valuation was \$25,837,775.

Other Valuations
Los Angeles took its place as one of the wealthiest cities in the United States, according to the preliminary figures published this week. The Southland metropolis has a total assessed valuation of \$2,740,997,100, it was reported. Long Beach was second with \$237,323,235, and Pasadena third with \$228,141,520.

Other outstanding cities in the county were rated as follows: Beverly Hills, \$99,979,195; Glendale, \$91,556,790; Santa Monica, \$79,608,975; Vernon, \$62,582,185; Alhambra, \$38,745,945; Buena Park, \$32,505; Huntington Park, \$27,309,860; Torrance, \$26,568,860; San Marino, \$24,266,695; and South Pasadena, \$21,165,355.

Churches Combine Sunday Evening Observances Here

Beginning next Sunday evening, August 2, several of the Protestant churches of Torrance are entering upon a series of Union Cooperative Sunday evening services. These services will continue for the next four Sundays, it is announced, and a different church will be used each week for the program.

The feeling on the part of the participating pastors is that through such a cooperative effort, all of the people of Torrance will be benefited by the joint observance and, according to the ministers, a spirit of Christian fellowship and good-will between the various denominations will be developed.

Each of the pastors will preach in a different church in turn. There will be a period of gospel singing each Sunday night and special music brought by the choirs of the participating churches. The schedule follows: August 2, service at First Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. O. D. Wonder preaching; August 9, service at Evangelical church, Rev. George Elder preaching; August 16, service at the First Christian church, Rev. Kemp J. Winkler preaching; and August 23, service at the First Baptist church, Rev. John B. Speed preaching.

Steel to Cut Salaried Workers

Plant Workers Retain Wages; Great Industry's Earnings Shrank to Low Level; Hoover Wage Policy Continues

Columbia Steel officials here are expecting instructions in the near future concerning a downward adjustment of officers' and office workers' salaries in view of the action this week of the United States Steel Corporation's reduction of disbursements to common stockholders and proposed lowering of certain salaries. The directors of the United States Steel Corporation or part of the downward adjustment of salaries to United States Steel and subsidiary companies' employees was available after the directors' meeting, according to published reports yesterday. The corporation reported total earnings for the quarterly period ending June 30 of \$13,817,525, after deducting all expenses incident to operations.

This is the lowest since the first quarter of 1915, when industry was still paralyzed from the shock of the outbreak of the World War. It is the lowest for the second quarter of any year in more than 20 years, the reports continued.

Two Weeks Left Of School Term

360 Pupils Are Attending Summer Session

Only two more weeks of summer school remain for 360 students at the Torrance Elementary school—the largest vacation term enrollment in the history of the local institution. Last year at this time there were 275 pupils enrolled for the six weeks' instruction period. Both the summer school classes and the playground activities will cease here on August 14, according to Principal William M. Bell Jr. this week. More than 100 children are attending the playground every day except Saturday and Sunday. This fall, all schools in the city will open one week earlier than usual, or on August 31.

First Hard-Ball Game Here Sunday

The first Sunday afternoon regular hard-ball game to be played in Torrance in 10, these many months, will be staged next Sunday afternoon beginning at 2 o'clock when the local Legion ball club plays the Long Beach "Colored Giants" at the new diamond, corner Border and Carson streets.

According to Tom Bowker, the Legionnaires have a fast, hard-hitting outfit and the negro team is equally as good, so "fans here can expect a good game." There will be no admission charge.

DECISION ON CITY BUDGET IN 3 WEEKS

No formal action will be taken by the City Council on the 1931-32 budget in less than three weeks.

This was the information given out this week by Mayor John Dennis, who said that it is unlikely the council will take up any matters pertaining to the coming year's cost sheet at next Tuesday night's meeting.

"There are several things we'll have to iron out yet," the Mayor declared. "Until these matters are cleared up we cannot act on the budget. Then, too, we have to wait until we receive official word from the Board of Supervisors as to what our assessed valuation is. Then we can know how much we'll have to cut out of the budget to keep the tax rate down."

Among the items which Dennis said must be straightened out in connection with the budget are: a proposed 10 per cent cut in all salaries; and the proposal of taking \$10,000 or \$15,000 out of the Chamber of Commerce funds and giving that money to the city for parks and playgrounds, music and general promotion.

The mayor stated that he was opposed to a general cut of 10 per cent in salaries "right down the line" as in some cases a cut was not merited by a city employee.

Rev. Young to 'Hit Sawdust Trail' East

A sample of Southern California evangelism will be brought to residents of Salem, Virginia, early next month when Rev. R. A. Young, former pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church here, opens a week's revival service in the Virginia city's tabernacle.

While back on the Atlantic coast, Rev. Young—who is now pastor of Grace church, Riverside, will visit Charleston, West Virginia, his former home. He has obtained a leave of absence from his Riverside pastorate and expects to leave for the east about August 10.

Don Findley Heads Local Group Backing Aqueduct Vote Sept. 29

With the date, September 29, announced as the day when 15 cities in Southern California—members of the Metropolitan Water District—will vote on the \$20,000,000 bond issue from which the Metropolitan aqueduct will be built to bring Colorado River water to the coastal plain, Don Findley, local chairman of the Citizens' Metropolitan Water Committee, is expected to announce the personnel of the Torrance group which will sponsor the bond campaign here.

Mayor John Dennis appointed Findley as head of the committee here several weeks ago. Now that the date of the election has been determined, the committee chairman will perfect his organization in order to acquaint every Torrance resident with the importance of the great project.

Will Be Full Size
In joining with other directors in setting September 29 as the bond election date, Mayor Dennis told the Metropolitan Water District directorate: "Torrance will support the aqueduct bonds just as wholeheartedly as we approved our local water issue a year ago—and that was by a majority of nine to one."

Previous action by the directors had determined that a 1500 second foot, full capacity aqueduct would be erected following recommendations of Chief Engineer Frank E. Weymouth. It was also determined that the cost would be \$220,000,000 including the construction of distribution lines to member cities in the District.

Urge Return of Cards
One of the first duties of the

Cost of Lomita Street Work Is Said Excessive

County Road Committee Is Making Financial Survey of District Projects

The Road committee of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, under the chairmanship of John R. Quinn, has been making a financial survey of all active and pending special district proceedings in the county. This survey discloses the fact that a number of acquisition and improvement districts probably cannot be completed under the Act of 1925, otherwise known as the Mattson Act.

Among them is found Acquisition and Improvement District No. 48 for the opening and improving of streets in Lomita in Tract No. 843, south of Miller avenue. The financial report of the Lomita project reveals that the property owners in the assessment district would have to pay \$185 for every \$100 of assessed land value for the cost of the acquisition and improvement. This is a large assessment which would be imposed upon the property owner makes the bonds practically unsalable.

As originally planned this proceeding includes approximately 85 acres in the assessment district. The total estimated cost to the district is \$231,869. Bonds to defray the costs of improvements cannot be sold readily where the amount of the assessment exceeds the assessed land value as in this case.

In some instances it has been suggested by the Road committee that the improvement be completed (Continued on Page 4-A)

Fortin to Apply For Probation

Convicted on Two Charges In Death Case

Convicted on circumstantial evidence of having killed Kendall Macklow, 14-year-old Lomita boy, Lloyd Fortin, 20, 830 Portola avenue, will file an application for probation. Fortin was found guilty of manslaughter and failure to stop and render aid after an automobile accident by a jury in Superior Judge O'Donnell's court last Friday.

Superior Judge Aggeler granted Fortin permission to apply for probation and set August 13 as the date of the hearing on this plea. The Torrance young man was convicted after he had produced an "air-tight alibi" in which he attempted to "prove" he was at home with his mother at the time of the accident to the Macklow boy on the night of May 9. Splinters of glass and scraps of green paint which fitted Fortin's damaged headlights and matched the Lomita boy's bicycle were used as evidence for the prosecution.

City Delayed Again In Water Bond Suit

Another delay was encountered this week by the city in its defense of the \$400,000 water bond issue for the construction of a publicly-owned water system when the plaintiffs, Mr. and Mrs. William Wilcox, stockholders in the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company, voluntarily withdrew their voluminous complaint and agreed to eliminate a number of its minor articles.

The Wilcoxes, who live at 2428 Torrance boulevard, according to the city directory, are permitting the water company to bring suit against the city to prevent the sale of bonds and construction of another water system here. City Attorney Briney said today that the city's counsel expect to receive a copy of the amended complaint within a week or 10 days. Three steps are open to the city in its defense. These are, according to Briney, a denial of all allegations; entering a motion to strike out further assertedly immaterial passages; or entering a demurrer to the issue which states that even though all of the assertions made by the complainant are true, they are beside the issue at stake and thus irrelevant to the case.

VACATIONISTS HAPPY TO BE HOME AGAIN!

All Claim Heat Encountered On Trips Made Local Weather Perfect

A combined report of all returned local vacationists to date would be something like this:

"We had an interesting trip—saw a lot of new country—but was it HOT! Believe us—we certainly are glad to come back to Torrance where it's so nice and cool! Warm here? Well, it couldn't be as hot as it was in—"

It was warm in Torrance this week—but nothing like the heat and attendant humidity in other cities in Southern California. And certainly nothing like the weather encountered by local residents of vacation trips to the High Sierras, back east, up north or almost any place else.

Breezes Chase Humidity
No record of the temperature has been kept at the High school since the vacation period started last June, but residents who maintain a constant watch on their own gauges report that at no time during the present rise has the thermometer passed the 90 degree mark.

Just at random, the Herald selected stories of local residents who returned this week from vacation trips to illustrate the difference in weather they encountered and the pleasant cooling breezes that drive old Heat and Humidity out of the Torrance city limits.

Desert Temperatures
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Jensen and their son have returned from a 6000-mile trip back through Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. They were gone five weeks, returning by way of Yellowstone National Park and then south through Utah, across the desert and home. At Las Vegas the Jensens sweltered under a temperature of 124 degrees. A few miles further on, at Baker, California, it was 122—and across the desert the heat was terrific, according to the local attorney.

Jensen reports that the corn crop in Iowa looked unusually good—although, he said, "There's no telling what price the farmers will get for it." Business conditions generally throughout the Middle West are picking up, indicating, he said, that the back of the depression is about broken. Dairying is in particularly good shape.

"We're certainly glad to be back home, though—why, these cool winds we get are unknown back east during the summer," they said.

Cool Swims Enjoyed
A little stream of "just this chill taken off" water was used as a natural bathing plunge by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Summers and Mr. and Mrs. James H. Scott while en route over 1700 miles of sun-baked territory in and adjoining the Mammoth-Lakes district, Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Parks last week.

The two swimmers enjoyed by the two couples were the high-lights of their vacation trip that covered about 1700 miles. On account of the heat, the Summers had to "back track" 80 miles from Mo- (Continued on Page 6-A)

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